



Health Policy for Population Health

NURS 5321

(<https://www.uttyler.edu/catalog/>)

Fall 2026

Scheduled Class Days and Times: Online

Instructor's Name: Dr. Brittany Murley (Sections P060, P061, P064)

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Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: Monday 9:00am to 12:00pm CST and by appointment or phone call or video conference. Additional days and times may be arranged upon request. Please email faculty to make arrangements/obtain Zoom link.

*Best way to contact me.

Instructor's Name: Dr. Kristen Sinay (Sections P062, P063)

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Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours: Thursday 8:30am to 11:30pm CST and by appointment or phone call or video conference. Additional days and times may be arranged upon request. Please email faculty to make arrangements/obtain Zoom link.

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Course Description: This course explores the reciprocity between health care policies and population health.

Prerequisites: Admission to any MSN program or enrolled in the PhD in Nursing program.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine causes of social, economical, political, and behavioral factors that affect health of populations.
2. Assess individual, organizational and community concerns, assets, resources and deficits utilizing a systems-thinking approach for population health.

3. Analyze policy issues that impact health care to support advocacy in the policy process at the system, local, regional, or national levels.
4. Identify critical stakeholders and key collaborative partnerships that influence the health care system to improve population health.
5. Evaluate health policies based on an ethical framework to advance population health.
6. Explain the planning, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based population health initiatives.
7. Recommend strategies to safeguard population health during disasters and public health emergencies.

Required Textbooks and Readings:

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. (7th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Author. ISBN 978-1-4338-3216-1

Knickman, J. R., & Elbel B. (Eds.). (2024). *Jonas & Kovner's health care delivery in the United States* (13th ed.). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company, LLC. ISBN: 978-0-8261-7303-4.

***Please note that both required textbooks are provided as e-textbooks through the UT Tyler library. If you prefer to utilize this option over purchasing the textbooks, you can find more information in Canvas or the following site: <https://libguides.uttyler.edu/textbooks>*

Assignments and Weights/Percentage/Point Values

Participation	5%
Discussion Boards (2)	15%
Quizzes (2)	20%
Policy Critique	20%
Health Promotion Project (2 parts)	40% (20% each)
10 Practice Hours (refer to the Pass/Fail Course Requirements Information Section)	Pass/Fail

Grading Scale:

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for all assignments are in the Modules. Final grades for the course will be determined based upon the following point assignments:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80-89
- C - 70-79

D - 60-69

F - Below 60

Grades will not be rounded when calculating the average (79.5 is not rounded to 80, and 89.5 is not rounded to 90). Students are required to achieve an average of 80% (B) to complete the course successfully.

Academic Integrity: Cheating of any kind, as defined in Section 8 of the UT Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) for Student Affairs (<https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/>), will not be tolerated. Consequences may include:

- reprimand
- exam failure
- course failure
- expulsion from the Nursing program
- expulsion from the University
- other consequences as assigned

Artificial Intelligence: UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, AI is permitted for specific assignments or situations, as indicated by your course faculty. Appropriate acknowledgment of AI use is required. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. To uphold academic integrity and the spirit of scholarly pursuit, when you utilize any generative AI tools to help with the completion of an assignment, it must be properly documented (which tool was used and how it was used). For any assignment requiring [APA formatting and citation style](https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references) <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/cite-generative-ai-references> (or other approved style), use the appropriate Style Guide to cite and reference the use of the generative AI tool. Specific assignments may require additional details; see assignment instructions.

Exam and homework materials, questions, and problems are the intellectual property of faculty, UT Tyler, or publishers.

- These materials may not be distributed without permission.
- Distributing or uploading them to online resources destroys the integrity of the assignment and the course, allowing others an unfair advantage by letting them view the materials.
- Uploading these materials to online resources is a violation of UT Tyler's academic misconduct policies and may result in formal conduct charges.
- Sanctions for uploading or otherwise divulging the contents of these materials can include:
 - a reduced or failing grade on an assignment
 - a reduced or failing grade for the course
 - removal from the Nursing program
 - removal from UT Tyler

Late Policy: 5% will be deducted each day an assignment is past due unless prior arrangements have been made with your course faculty. Extenuating circumstances may apply. If the grading rubric includes late policy grading, the grading rubric supersedes this late policy.

Repeating a Course: Students repeating this course may not use previously submitted assignments nor utilize the same patients for an assignment. Submitting the same or slightly modified assignments from previous semesters is considered self-plagiarism and is subject to academic discipline, including failing the assignment or the course.

Attendance and Make-up Policy: Attendance/participation is expected. Make-up for exams, quizzes, assignments, and missed clinical time is at the instructor's discretion.

Graded Course Requirements Information:

Graded Course Requirements Information:

- **Participation:** The participation grade will include course orientation Zoom recording attestation, student information, and graduate affirmation forms.
- **Discussion Boards:** Throughout the semester, students will engage in group discussions designed to enhance their understanding of health policy and population health concepts. Discussion topics are integrated within course modules, and expectations, guidelines, and grading criteria are provided in the Start Here module and within the corresponding module assignments in Canvas.
- **Population Health Quiz:** You will take two quizzes over population health content covered in the corresponding readings. The quizzes will be open book, but students are encouraged to read the assigned chapters before beginning the quiz.
- **Policy Critique:** Students will critically evaluate and compare health-related policies that influence population health outcomes, examining their effectiveness, ethical implications, stakeholder involvement, health equity impact, costs, and implementation challenges. Using evidence-based analysis, students will assess policy strengths and

limitations, develop recommendations for improvement, and explore the role of nursing advocacy in advancing policy and systems-level change.

- **Health Promotion Project:** This team-based project is completed in two parts and provides students with an opportunity to apply health policy and population health concepts to a real-world community issue. Teams will be assigned during the first week of the course, and active collaboration, communication, and participation from all members are essential for successful completion. Through this experience, students will develop teamwork skills while exploring strategies to improve population health outcomes.
 - **Part 1:** Students will work collaboratively in teams to establish professional team norms, communication expectations, and accountability strategies while applying strengths-based leadership principles. Teams will then analyze a population health disparity within a selected county, examining epidemiologic data, social determinants of health, vulnerable populations, relevant health policy, stakeholder roles, and the impact of disasters and public health emergencies on population health outcomes through a PowerPoint presentation.
 - **Part 2:** Building on Part 1, students will conduct a policy analysis of a health issue affecting a selected population, evaluating policy strengths, limitations, health equity implications, and disaster preparedness considerations. Teams will develop an evidence-based policy recommendation, implementation strategy, and evaluation plan, including measurable outcomes and interventions designed to reduce health disparities and improve population health, while reflecting on project learning and professional application.

Please Note: Detailed information along with grading rubrics for course assignments will be provided in Canvas.

Pass/Fail Course Requirements Information:

Core Courses Practice Hours: If Fall 2025 or thereafter marks your first enrollment in the UT Tyler School of Nursing master's program, to graduate you are required to complete a total of 750 practice hours if you are enrolled in an APRN program or 500 hours if enrolled in a non-APRN program. In this course, you will complete 10 practice hours, which will contribute towards the total requirement. You may not resubmit hours approved for this course in another course. We have created a list of ideas for you to choose from that will enhance your skills and competencies. These practice hours are mandated by our accreditation agency, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Completion of 10 practice hours approved through Exxat are required to pass the course.

Important Course Dates for Fall Flex 1:

Classes Begin: August 27, 2026

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): September 2, 2026

Last Date to Withdraw: September 30, 2026 Students please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates for Fall Flex 1:

Course Schedule				
Week #	Date	Class Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1	8/31 – 9/6	Population Health and Public Health Systems and Their Role in Society	Review Syllabus and Course Calendar; Textbook Readings: Ch. 4, 5, 6	• Student Information due <i>Tuesday 9/1</i> • DB 1 Initial Post due 9/6 • Graduate Affirmation Forms due 9/6 • Attestation of Course Orientation Zoom due 9/6 • Attestation of Practice Hours (if applicable) due 9/6
Week 2	9/7 – 9/13	Health and Behavior and Vulnerable Populations	Textbook Readings: Ch. 7, 8, 9	• DB 1 Peer Response due <i>Tuesday 9/8</i> • Part 1 Health Promotion Project and Peer Evaluation due 9/13
Week 3	9/14 – 9/20	Health Care Delivery and Health Policy, Organization of Care	Textbook Readings: Ch. 1, 2	• Quiz 1 due 9/20
Week 4	9/21 – 9/27	Policy and the Politics of Health Care Comparative Health Systems and Health Care Delivery in the United States	Textbook Readings: Ch. 3; eChapter: A Visual Overview of Health Care Delivery in the United States	• Policy Critique due 9/27

Week 5	9/28 – 10/4	The Future of Health Care Delivery and Health Policy	Textbook Readings: Ch. 14; Articles: Future of Nursing, Measuring Functional Health Literacy; Ethical principles	• Part 2 Health Promotion Project and Peer Evaluation due 10/4
Week 6	10/5 – 10/11	The Future of Health Care Delivery and Health Policy and Public Health Preparedness	Articles: Future of Nursing, Measuring Functional Health Literacy; Ethical principles	• DB 2 Initial Post due 10/5 • 10 Practice Hours (if applicable) 10/5 • Quiz 2 due 10/11
Week 7	10/12 – 10/18	Synthesis	Article: Major Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	• DB 2 Peer Response due <i>Tuesday 10/13</i>

Important Course Dates for Fall Flex 2:

Classes Begin: October 19, 2026

Census Date (withdraw without penalty): October 23, 2026

Last Date to Withdraw: November 18, 2026 Students please notify your course faculty and contact your advisor.

Calendar of Topics, Readings, and Due Dates for Summer Flex 2:

Course Schedule				
Week #	Date	Class Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1	10/19 – 10/25	Population Health and Public Health Systems and Their Role in Society	Review Syllabus and Course Calendar; Textbook Readings: Ch. 4, 5, 6	• Student Information due <i>Tuesday 10/20</i> • DB 1 Initial Post due 10/25 • Graduate Affirmation Forms due 10/25 • Attestation of Course Orientation Zoom due 10/25 • Attestation of Practice Hours (if applicable) due 10/25
Week 2	10/26 – 11/1	Health and Behavior and Vulnerable Populations	Textbook Readings: Ch. 7, 8, 9	• DB 1 Peer Response due <i>Tuesday 10/27</i> • Part 1 Health Promotion Project and Peer Evaluation due 11/1
Week 3	11/2 – 11/8	Health Care Delivery and Health Policy, Organization of Care	Textbook Readings: Ch. 1, 2	• Quiz 1 due 11/8
Week 4	11/9 – 11/15	Policy and the Politics of Health Care Comparative Health Systems and Health Care Delivery in the United States	Textbook Readings: Ch. 3; eChapter: A Visual Overview of Health Care Delivery in the United States	• Policy Critique due 11/15

Week 5	11/16 – 11/22	The Future of Health Care Delivery and Health Policy	Textbook Readings: Ch. 14; Articles: Future of Nursing, Measuring Functional Health Literacy; Ethical principles	Part 2 Health Promotion Project and Peer Evaluation due 11/22
	11/23 – 11/27	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>		
Week 6	11/30 – 12/6	The Future of Health Care Delivery and Health Policy and Public Health Preparedness	Articles: Future of Nursing, Measuring Functional Health Literacy; Ethical principles	- DB 2 Initial Post due 12/6 - Quiz 2 due 12/6 10 Practice Hours (if applicable) due 11/30
Week 7	12/7 – 12/12	Synthesis	Article: Major Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	DB 2 Peer Response due <i>Tuesday 12/8</i>

School of Nursing Policies and Additional Information:

https://www.utt Tyler.edu/nursing/college/student_guide_and_policies.php

Student Resources and University Policies are provided in Canvas.